



State of Utah  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210  
PO Box 145801  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801  
(801) 538-5340 telephone  
(801) 359-3940 fax  
(801) 538-7223 TTY  
www.nr.utah.gov

Michael O. Leavitt  
Governor

Robert L. Morgan  
Executive Director

Lowell P. Braxton  
Division Director

April 14, 2003

Ron Whitehead, Director  
Public Works  
197 East Tabernacle  
St. George, Utah 84770

Re: Access to Reclaimed Mine Sites in the Silver Reef Area, 5M Inc., Silver Reef Mine, M/053/002, Washington County, Utah

Dear Mr. Whitehead:

During 1996-97, the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, Minerals Regulatory Program, was involved in a joint agency cleanup, closure and reclamation action of the 5M Incorporated, Silver Reef heap leach and processing project area, located near Leeds, Utah. This project was the focus of an EPA Emergency Response cleanup action. As part of the post-closure design criteria, certain monitoring facilities were installed to help track the results and effectiveness of the clean up measures. Portions of the processing facilities area were reclaimed and reseeded by the Division.

The Minerals Regulatory Program in cooperation with EPA and the BLM have periodically been monitoring this site to evaluate the success of the remediation project and document any changes to the on-site conditions. On April 1, 2003, Doug Jensen and I tried to perform a routing inspection of the project area. We were unable to gain access to the site because we encountered locked gates, trenches and boulders that were blocking all access routes into the project area. It is our understanding that a Mr. Stacey Keats may have acquired some of the private property rights to the general area and has effectively closed off all of the historical access roads leading into the project area.

This road closure action is unacceptable as it conflicts with our regulatory jurisdiction to continue monitoring the status and condition of this site. It is my understanding that you are investigating the ownership and historic use of the access routes within the Silver Reef area. Any assistance that you could provide to help resolve this access problem would be greatly appreciated. If you need additional information please contact me at (801) 538-5286.

Sincerely

D. Wayne Hedberg  
Permit Supervisor  
Minerals Regulatory Program

jb

cc: Jim Crisp, Field Manager, BLM, St. George FO  
Steven Thriot, DERR  
Mary Ann Wright, OGM  
Doug Jensen, OGM

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